

MONTANA
STATE

ASSOCIATION, INC.

 EXHIBIT 12
 DATE 1/29/07
 # 311
 4 Pages

January 28, 2007

To: All members of the Montana House Judiciary Committee.

From: Bob Billiard; Montana State Elks Drug Awareness Chairman

I strongly urge you to vote against House bill 311. According to the information I have one Marijuana plant produces about one pound of marijuana. PAGE 01/04

One pound of marijuana plant will roll about 1,176 joints.
 Five pounds (5 plants), = 5882 joints
 X 4 crops a year (20 total pounds) = 23,529 joints a year
 Or 455 joints a week or 65 joints a day PER SICK PERSON!!!

I'm also facing you information on smoked marijuana. Please read this over and weigh it very carefully before you vote on this bill.

There are many stories out there about meth children and where they first started with drugs and marijuana is the first one on the list. We can't make this more available.

We allowed an outsider to come in here and put medical marijuana on the ballot in 2005. We can't allow them to dictate that we need to expand it further than has already been done.

Please read carefully the information I am sending you before you consider this bill.

Please vote against bill #311.

save on

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Billiard".

for Questions
 Home - 655-3532
 Cell - 861-1142

digitally

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A Fraternal Organization

<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2006/NEW01362.html>



U.S. Food and Drug Administration



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FDA Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement 4

April 20, 2006

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FDA Press Office, 301-827-6242

Consumer Inquiries:

888-INFO-FDA

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Inter-Agency Advisory Regarding Claims That Smoked Marijuana Is a Medicine

Claims have been advanced asserting smoked marijuana has a value in treating various medical conditions. Some have argued that herbal marijuana is a safe and effective medication and that it should be made available to people who suffer from a number of ailments upon a doctor's recommendation, even though it is not an approved drug.

Marijuana is listed in schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA), the most restrictive schedule. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which administers the CSA, continues to support that placement and FDA concurred because marijuana met the three criteria for placement in Schedule I under 21 U.S.C. 812(b)(1) (e.g., marijuana has a high potential for abuse, has no currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, and has a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision). Furthermore, there is currently sound evidence that smoked marijuana is harmful. A past evaluation by several Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA), concluded that no sound scientific studies supported medical use of marijuana for treatment in the United States, and no animal or human data supported the safety or efficacy of marijuana for general medical use. There are alternative FDA-approved medications in existence for treatment of many of the proposed uses of smoked marijuana.

FDA is the sole Federal agency that approves drug products as safe and effective for intended indications. The Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act requires that new drugs be shown to be safe and effective for their intended use before being marketed in this country. FDA's drug approval process requires well-controlled clinical trials that provide the necessary scientific data upon which FDA makes its approval and labeling decisions. If a drug product is to be marketed, disciplined, systematic, scientifically conducted trials are the best means to obtain data to ensure that drug is safe and effective when used as indicated. Efforts that seek to bypass the FDA drug approval process would not serve the interests of public health because they might expose patients to unsafe and ineffective drug products. FDA has not approved smoked marijuana for any condition or disease indication.

A growing number of states have passed voter referenda (or legislative actions) making smoked marijuana available for a variety of medical conditions upon a doctor's recommendation. These measures are inconsistent with efforts to ensure that medications undergo the rigorous scientific scrutiny of the FDA approval process and are proven safe and effective under the standards of the FD&C Act. Accordingly, FDA, as the federal agency responsible for reviewing the safety and efficacy of drugs, DEA as the federal agency charged with enforcing the CSA, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy, as the federal coordinator of drug control policy, do not support the use of smoked marijuana for medical purposes.

~~SECRET~~

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which has donated \$170,000 to create the Montana Medical Marijuana Project. Montana was one of 10 States chosen as targets for legalization this year. Activists from California and other places came to Montana and set up the petition drive and organized this legalization effort.

I want to share a couple of things with you because there are many misconceptions. First of all the National Average of children between 10 and 18 who use Marijuana is 2.7%. This is down from several years ago when it was much higher. Since passing the Medical Marijuana Act some of these States have seen their average go to approximately 30%. A staggering increase.

The State of Oregon issued over 8,000 Medical Marijuana cards after passing their Medical Marijuana Law. The conditions for which these cards were issued ranged from cancer to chronic back pain to "over strenuous sexual activity." I kid you not!

Employers in these States discovered that they could not terminate employees for smoking marijuana on the job because it was discrimination based on a medical condition. Those who did fire employees were sued. Those who worked in Safety Sensitive or Hazardous Work Environments and smoked marijuana had to be moved to other areas within the company at the same rate of pay, while the company had to hire someone else to fill the void. The resultant problems are numerous as are the lawsuits.

The facts are as follows:

Marijuana never has and never will be used for Glaucoma. It is ineffective.

Marinol, the prescription pill, in regulated milligram doses, which will reduce pain, stimulate appetite and do all of the other things that marijuana does, is not acceptable to those who want the drug legalized, because Marinol does not have the hallucinogenic effect of smoked Marijuana.

Smoked Marijuana can not be regulated by dose.

There is no test for driving under the influence of Marijuana.

Marijuana can cause cancer. It has over 20 times the tar and nicotine of a cigarette. Why would cancer patients smoke this?

Proponents of Medical Marijuana will be quick to tell you that no one has ever died from smoking Marijuana. This is true as far as I know. But I can tell you as a retired Police Officer, that the car crash after smoking Marijuana has taken quite a few, along with dozens of other ways. Including: you have all heard of college students dying from binge drinking. I've drunk too much a few times and I'm sure some of you have. What happens... you throw up. Marijuana inhibits the body's ability to regurgitate (this is one of the reasons they want to make it available to chemo patients... not the Marinol pill but the cancer causing smoked Marijuana), so when these students smoke marijuana and drink too much their bodies natural process of regurgitation is inhibited and their bodies become toxic and they die. If educated college students can't figure this out what do you think is going to happen when 10, 12 and 14 year olds get a hold of it?

Let me ask you a couple of quick questions:

Do you want your children or grandchildren riding with other inexperienced youthful drivers who have been using marijuana?

Do you want these children taking their tests in school after smoking marijuana?

Oh, wait, how are they going to get it... we're talking about medical marijuana. You'd need a prescription wouldn't you? They get it now, it will just become easier.

Most States that have passed these laws allow the person with the prescription to grow 5 plants, 4 times a year. That's 20 plants a year.

One adult plant produces about one pound of marijuana.

One pound of marijuana will roll about 1,176 joints.

5 pounds (5 plants), = 5,882 joints

X 4 crops a year (20 total pounds) = 23,529 joints a year

Or 455 joints a week

Or 65 joints a day PER SICK PERSON !!!

PAGE 04/04

Now tell me where all that pot is going to end up because no one can smoke that much. Let me tell you. It's going to end up in the hands of our children and grandchildren.

Montana has not yet decided how much marijuana a person will be allowed to possess or grow. In November we will be voting to legalize medical marijuana without having all of the information.

This will be on our ballot in November, so you need to be thinking about this. While you're at it ask yourself these questions:

Where are the safeguards?

What illnesses are eligible?

Who will oversee this program and what will the cost be to the taxpayer?

Will unethical doctors issue prescriptions without seeing the patient? (that happens now!)

Will prescriptions be forged? (US Currency is forged)

Who will grow it for the terminally ill?

If family members will do this, will there be young children in the house?

Will patients using medical marijuana be allowed to continue to drive?

Under current Federal law, Insurance companies will not cover a driver/patient who has adverse effects or injures someone with their automobile. Who will pay? Can the State be held liable?

There are too many questions and no answers because the only issue here is making marijuana legal. When have you ever heard of voting to legalize a drug? This is something that the FDA has always done after years of exhaustive study. If you, like me think that something is wrong here, make yourself heard and please vote no to legalized medical marijuana.

If you need any further information or want to know how you can take action please contact me.